

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, US

SUBJECT: ACTING SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON WITH CYPRUS AMBASSADOR
DIM-TRIOU

REF: NICOSIA 2043

1. DEPT APPRECIATES THOUGHTFUL SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL. ACTING SECRETARY USED MOST OF THEM IN HIS AUG. 16 LUNCHEON WITH AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU.

2. ACTING SECRETARY BEGAN LUNCHEON CONVERSATION BY EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR STATESMANLIKE CONDUCT OF THE GOC DURING THE DIFFICULT PERIOD OF THE EMBARGO CONTROVERSY,
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AND THE STEPS GOC TOOK TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE TO U.S.-CYPRUS RELATIONS. HE HOPED THAT WITH THE EMBARGO ISSUE BEHIND US WE COULD NOW MOVE FORWARD TO FREE-UP ATTITUDES ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. HE ASKED AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU HOW THE U.S. MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THIS. DIMITRIOU RESPONDED THAT THE BEST THING U.S. COULD DO NOW WOULD BE TO PUT PRESSURE ON TURKEY TO BE FORTHCOMING. TURKEY HAD WON LIFTING OF EMBAR-

GO AND NOW SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE MORE FLEXIBLE PROPOSALS. SECONDLY, AND DIMITRIOU SEEMED TO GIVE MORE IMPORTANCE TO THIS, U.S. SHOULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVES ON

ITS OWN BUT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. IN CYPRUS, THE UNITED NATIONS IS RECOGNIZED AS THE BODY WHICH CAN BEST SERVE AS A CATALYST TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

3. ACTING SECRETARY CONFIRMED THAT U.S. INTENTION IS TO ASSIST THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND POINTED OUT THAT WE ARE IN FREQUENT COMMUNICATION WITH UNSYG TO BE SURE THAT WE ARE SUPPORTING HIS ONGOING ACTIVITIES. IN THE U.N. CONTEXT, ACTING SECRETARY WAS PERPLEXED BY REPORTS THAT GOC MIGHT PREFER TO DEFER INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND WOULD RATHER HAVE THE ISSUE DEBATED AT UNSC AND UNGA. HE SAID CONTENTIOUS DEBATES ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE AT THE U.N. MIGHT PRODUCE NEW RESOLUTIONS, BUT PROBABLY WOULD SET BACK THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION BY FURTHER EXACERBATING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. DIMITRIOU RESPONDED WITH A LONG DEFENSE OF GOC RECOURSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. HE SAID DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN CYPRUS REQUIRES A STRONG EFFORT IN U.N. AND THAT IN TAKING MATTER TO UNSC, GOC IS ONLY BEING RESPONSIVE TO 1977 UNGA RESOLUTION ON CYPRUS WHICH CALLS ON SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE ACTION TO IMPLEMENT U.N. RESOLUTIONS. HE WAS NOT INSTRUCTED ON THIS POINT, BUT FELT CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT IF THERE COULD BE A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, I.E. A NEW TURKISH PROPOSAL, BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS MEETS IN THE FALL, GOC MIGHT BE WILLING TO FOREGO U.N. RECOURSE THIS YEAR.

4. ACTING SECRETARY NOTED THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE SPECIFIC LIMITED SUBJECTS ON WHICH PARTIES MIGHT GET TOGETHER TO TALK. THESE DISCUSSIONS MIGHT RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT AND PROVIDE A WAY BACK INTO MORE GENERALIZED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. THE SUBJECTS ARE VAROSHA, MISSING PERSONS, AND OPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT FOR U.N. USE. IN ADDITION TO HELPING GET NEGOTIATIONS RE-STARTED, PROGRESS ON VAROSHA AND MISSING PERSONS COULD HAVE REAL HUMAN BENEFITS TO THOSE INVOLVED. AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU UNDERSTOOD U.S. IDEA THAT DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS COULD LEAD TO REOPENING OF INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES. HE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE, EVEN LIKELY, THAT DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECTS LIKE THESE COULD IN THEMSELVES BECOME LONG AND DRAWN OUT AND COULD LEAD TO EVEN LONGER DELAYS IN ANY JOINT CONSIDERATION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM ITSELF.

5. CHRISTOPHER MENTIONED THAT AS WE CONSIDER NEXT STEPS TOWARD A CYPRUS SOLUTION, WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR A SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, PROBABLY COUNSELOR NIMETZ, TO MAKE A LOW-KEY VISIT TO CYPRUS TO GET A

FIRST-HAND VIEW OF CURRENT CYPRIOT THINKING ON HOW TO PROCEED. NIMETZ WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE SUCH A VISIT ANY TIME AFTER LABOR DAY. ACTING SECRETARY HIMSELF MIGHT ALSO MAKE A VISIT TO CYPRUS LATER IN THE FALL. HE ASKED AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU FOR HIS REACTION TO THESE SUGGESTIONS. DIMITRIOU NOTED THAT THIS SUBJECT HAD ARISEN IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. HE HAD INFORMED GOC BUT HAD RECEIVED NO REACTION EXCEPT THAT GOC FONMIN ROLANDIS HAD ASKED BY TELEPHONE SAME DAY
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WHETHER THERE WAS ANY MORE NEWS ON A POSSIBLE U.S. VISIT TO CYPRUS. WHILE DIMITRIOU COULD NOT MAKE A COMMITMENT, HE WOULD MAKE A TELEPHONE CALL TO ROLANDIS LATER IN THE AFTERNOON OF AUG. 16 TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF AN EARLY SEPTEMBER VISIT BY NIMETZ. HIS PERSONAL REACTION WAS THAT SUCH A VISIT MIGHT CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT USG WAS PUTTING PRESSURE ON GOC TO MAKE DAMAGING CONCESSIONS, BUT HE AGREED THAT IF THE VISIT WAS LOW KEY, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID THIS IMPRESSION. ACTING SECRETARY ASSURED DIMITRIOU THAT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF SENDING A VISITOR IF THIS WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR GOC.

6. TENOR OF ENTIRE CONVERSATION WAS FRANK, WITH DIMITRIOU STRESSING THAT U.S. MUST NOW TAKE POSITIVE ACTION, I.E. PUT PRESSURE ON TURKEY TO MAKE CONCESSIONS, BECAUSE OF OBLIGATION INCURRED BY LIFTING OF EMBARGO. ACTING SECRETARY'S RESPONSES WERE EQUALLY FIRM, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE POINT THAT THE TWO SIDES MUST TALK WITH EACH OTHER IN ORDER TO MOVE TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

7. COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND ACTING EUR/SE DIRECTOR DILLERY ALSO ATTENDED LUNCHEON.

8. AMBASSADOR SHOULD FEEL FREE TO RAISE THE POINTS MADE IN REFTEL AND THIS TEL, INCLUDING OUR CONCERN ABOUT LIKELY GOC RECOURSE TO SECURITY COUNCIL. RE PARA 2 FOURTH TIC REFTEL, WE NOTE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S OPPOSITION TO USE OF MILITARY FORCE IN THE AREA WAS MAINLY INTENDED TO APPLY TO THE AEGEAN. TO USE THIS POINT WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS MIGHT SUGGEST THAT WE THINK THAT ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE PARTIES MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATING USE OF FORCE IN CYPRUS. THEREFORE, SUGGEST THIS POINT NOT BE USED. VANCE

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